



Youth work in Tunisia after the revolution



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Executive Summary



There are moments in history when ordinary activities taken on extraordinary importance. The youth revolution in Tunisia in 2011 is one such moment. Tired of the indignity of repression, Tunisian youth rose up to begin what became the Arab Spring. It is against this

backdrop that the EuroMed Youth program considering the implications of this uprising for youth work programs in Tunisia.

In 2012, Tunisian youth continued to face many of the same challenges they faced before: high unemployment, exclusion, and disillusion. However, there are signs of hope. A new legal framework guaranteeing freedom of association has given life to new associations. These have brought fresh life into associative life in Tunisia, but many organizations find themselves unready, because of capacity or funding restraints, to address the considerable problems youth face in Tunisian communities.

Youth culture in Tunisia is characterized by many of the same divisions that exist in society as a whole. Regional disparities, an educational system in need of reform, and a severely restricted labor market are all contributing factors to the problems faced by young people in Tunisia.

Against this new landscape, the Tunisian youth work structure has remained largely intact. The Tunisian government offers a wide range of services to young people to facilitate civic life through a variety of institutions. These services include employment, training opportunities (including: vocational training, skills training, and self-employment), civic participation, and recreational activities. These form the basis of Tunisia's comprehensive youth program. However, there are difficulties in coordinating these services across the

agencies, leading to fragmented coverage, ambiguity and overlap in roles.

Recognition of regional disparities is one of the key areas of importance for youth organizations and institutions. While governmental and non-governmental organizations have a significant presence in Tunisia's major coastal areas, the country's interior has long been neglected. One of the key priorities to the reform of the country's youth work is to decentralize budgets and policy prerogatives to the regions themselves to better allow agencies to target activities to the needs of the regions.

Formal education, through a highly centralized educational system, remains the standard for the Tunisian government's approach to youth work and youth participation. The legacy of state control has limited the number of independent bodies that could provide opportunities for non-formal learning – an area experts have long identified as a key need for youth, especially in developing the soft skills necessary for joining the workforce.

The association of youth work with the former regime, and in particular the political party Rassemblement constitutionnel démocratique (RCD), has detracted from the impact of youth work activities. Today, youth workers recognize the importance of being seen as independent actors – serving youth and not the state. Centralization has also caused many regions to feel underserved by the priorities of youth work programs. What works in Tunis does not necessarily work in the country's interior. Finally, youth work in Tunisia has found itself, partially because of its legacy and its centralization, with a problem when reaching out to the young people who are most at risk.

Addressing these critical issues is a fundamental concern for the Tunisian government as it looks to preserve what has worked, while reforming where necessary.

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Introduction

Tunisia's revolution in January 2011, which saw a popular uprising chase a despot from power, sparked off the Arab Spring. The courage of Tunisia's youth and the non-violent nature of the young people who rose up were an inspiration to other movements across the Arab region in what came to be known as the Arab Spring.

The role of youth in the revolution was fundamental. Based largely on the previous regime's inability to live up to the demands of Tunisia's most important demographic, it was not by chance that an unemployed, but educated, young man named Mohamed Bouazizi became the face of the revolution. His suicide after having his fruit stand taken away by the police represented the frustrations of many Tunisian youth. But two years after the revolution, and with Tunisia's first freely elected parliament in place, many of the problems facing Tunisia's youth remain. The revolution itself, which led to an economic downturn, coupled with the

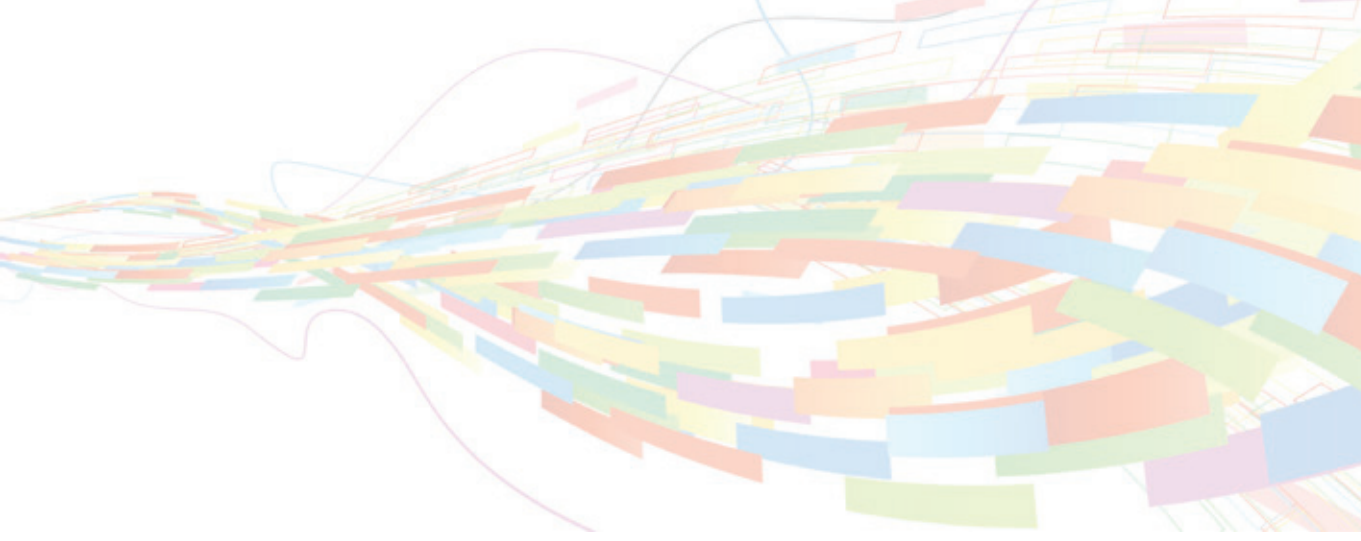


*Tunis, 26.06.2012 - Official Opening
«Study Visit Youth work in Tunisia
after the revolution»*



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economic problems in Europe, have left Tunisia unable as yet to respond to the issues that caused the revolution – namely jobs and opportunities for young people. It was against this backdrop that in June 2012 the Tunisian Euromed Youth Unit, responsible for the EuroMed Youth Program IV, in cooperation with the Salto-Youth EuroMed resource center, visited Tunisia to study how Tunisian youth associations were responding to these needs and how European organizations could help foster exchanges between Europe and Tunisia. This report is the out put from this visit, in which twenty-eight participants from 18 European countries met with counterparts in the Tunisian Ministry of Youth, local youth clubs, and civil society organizations working with youth in order to understand the situation on the ground and to find opportunities for partnerships.



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1. Study objectives

“Youth work in Tunisia after the revolution” is part of a new collection of publications dedicated to Youth Work in Mediterranean (MEDA) partner countries. This collection aims to support cooperation within the EuroMed area and to provide an in-depth reflection on current issues and challenges in youth work in the Euro-Mediterranean context.

Changes across the MEDA region have shown the importance of finding new perspectives for the challenges of youth work in the region and the importance of young people in shaping the new dynamics in these countries.

This study aims to contribute to the overall thinking about youth work in Tunisia after the 2011 revolution and to provide new tools for understanding the shifting landscape. The specific focus of this study is to provide an overview of the ongoing situation in youth work in Tunisia and the changes of youth work and services after the revolution, with a particular focus on how youth work is responding to the demands of young people in the post revolutionary period, with an emphasis on social inclusion, employment, and civic participation.

1.2 Methodology

This study’s methodology combines quantitative, qualitative, and institutional analysis. The goal is to provide a nuanced analysis of youth work based on economic and institutional realities.

Quantitative data analysis (see also Annex) is based on complementary data sources on economic production and demographic trends from the World


Bank, the Tunisian National Institute of Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau’s International Data Set. Human development data are from the United Nations Development Program’s Human Development Index (2011).

Qualitative analysis (see also Annex) was conducted through research and interviews with youth workers and NGOs in Tunisia in June and July 2012 with the support of the Euromed Youth Unit in Tunis.

Institutional analysis (see also Annex) comes from information provided by the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Tunisian National Youth Observatory, and the Bureau of Associations in the Tunisian Prime Ministry.


1.3 Challenges of the study

Documentation on new Tunisian associations is difficult to analyze because of the limited information being collected by official and non-official agencies. The 2011 law on the formation and funding of associations, which liberalized and expedited the process for registering organizations, had a dramatic impact on the number of registered associations in Tunisia. Over 3,000 new NGOs were registered in the first year of its existence. Likewise, according to officials in the office of the Prime Minister, the previous regime inflated the number of active NGOs in an attempt to show a more active civil society. As a result, it is difficult to quantify the real number of associations, in particular those that are active, working with youth or on youth related projects.



In addition to opening doors for home-grown NGOs, foreign donors also increased their operations in Tunisia, including multinational institutions (e.g., the World Bank, the United Nations), bilateral donors (e.g., national donor agencies such as the UK's DfID, France's AFD, the United States' USAID) and private foundations.

Many of these foreign interventions have specifically targeted aspects of youth participation, including youth employment, civic participation, political participation, and civil society capacity building. While the Deauville partnership, in which donors promised financial and technical assistance to Tunisia and other Arab Spring countries, had the goal of coordinating of development projects, in practice there is significant overlap among donor organizations. As a result, it is impossible to make a thorough evaluation of youth work in Tunisia strictly through the lens of Euro-Med/SALTO programs in the country.



Tunis, 26.06.2012 - Institute of Bir el Bey



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2. General background to youth situation

2.1 Definition of youth

Definitions of youth differ, both globally and in Tunisia. The Tunisian uprising has put a special emphasis on the term youth, or shebab, who are seen as responsible for the uprising. While youth as a concept is fluid, for the purposes of this study youth and youth work are considered to be in the 15-25 age bracket – the traditional focus of the Tunisian government’s approach to youth work. Readers should note, however, that the uprising in late 2010 has become known as a “youth uprising” and the post-revolutionary state has adopted this language in what it sees as a defense of the revolution. In this respect, youth encompasses a broader definition (up to around 40) than has traditionally been used by the youth work community. Coupled with the political implications of the word “youth” in today’s Tunisia is the demographic reality, elaborated in section 2.2, that shows the weight of youth as a percentage of the country’s overall population.

2.2 Demography

The republic of Tunisia has a population of 10.6 million people. Tunisia’s demography, like many of its neighbors in the region, is characterized by the presence of a large youth

population bulge. Over 28 percent of the population is between the ages of 15-29, and fully 51 percent of the population is under 30.

However, birth rates in Tunisia, unlike other countries in the region, are in decline and the number of young people between the ages of 15-29 is expected to decrease as a percentage of the population to under 21 percent in the next ten years.

Nevertheless, as explained in section 2.1, the youth demographic both represents a particularly large percentage of the Tunisian population and the role of youth in the revolution has made them a demographic that has never held as much sway as it does today.



*Kairouan, 28.06.2012
Visit of the city
and presentation of Heritage
in Kairouan*

3. Background to youth work in Tunisia

Youth culture in Tunisia is characterized by many of the same divisions that exist in society as a whole. Regional disparities, an educational system in need of reform, and a severely restricted labor market are all contributing factors to the problems faced by young people in Tunisia. In order to understand these challenges, it is essential to look first at the political and economic context in which the country finds itself in 2012.

3.1 Political context

Tunisia's post-independence political context can be summarized by its three main periods. The first was led by Tunisia's independence leader Habib Bourguiba from 1956-1987. The second was led by Zine el-Abadine Ben Ali from 1987-2011. The third is the country's post-revolutionary period and transition to democracy, which was punctuated by the country's first free and fair elections in October 2011.

The first two periods were marked by the rule of a one-party state. Crackdowns on opposition and human rights groups became common starting in the 1970s and severe limitations on access to information were imposed during the Ben Ali period. Associative life under Ben Ali was also severely restricted. Although Tunisian associations were allowed to exist, they were often co-opted by the state and used for political purposes. Any group perceived to pose a threat to the state was systematically repressed.

The uprising in 2011 marked a sharp turning point for associative life in Tunisia. A technocratic government that was formed following the suspension of the country's constitution in March 2011 enacted several laws increasing the freedoms of individuals and associations. Principle among them was decree 2011-88, which allowed the free formation of associations with virtually no restrictions. As a result of this law, over 3,000 new associations have been created. The decree also moved the approval of official associations from the Ministry of the Interior to the special office for associations within the office of the Prime Minister.

The interim government also paved the way for free multiparty elections, which took place in October 2011, putting into power a coalition government led by the Islamist party Ennahda. The elections also created a Constituent Assembly to write the country's new constitution. Young people have been active participants in the campaign period, as both members of political parties, and in the drafting of the constitution, frequently protesting for the inclusion of rights within the new constitution. Nevertheless, the post-elections period has also been marked by an increasing polarization of Tunisian society, culminating in heated debates among opposing figures in civil society, labor, and politics.

3.2 Economic and social context

While the uprising of 2011 brought with it many civil liberties of which Tunisians had long been deprived, the uprising was a result of declining economic and

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social conditions, particularly for young people.

For many years, structural conditions in the Tunisian economy have meant that job creation has not kept pace with the rising number of young people entering the work force. Unemployment is a major social issue, especially for highly educated young workers.

Tunisia's overall unemployment rate spiked by 6 percent following the revolution, from 13 to 19 percent. For highly skilled youth, aged 15-29, the unemployment rate exceeds 44 percent.

Tunisia's unemployment problem is linked to both external and internal problems. Since the revolution, the economy has suffered from the overall instability of the country, which has affected key industries, notably tourism, which employs (directly and indirectly) up to 20 percent of Tunisians. Growth has also slowed as a result of economic problems in Tunisia's largest trading partners. Tunisian exports to the European Union, the destination for up to 70 percent of exports, have been impacted by the crisis in the Euro zone. Meanwhile, the instability in Libya, long an attractive market for Tunisian workers, has only recently begun to ease.

Tunisia's structural problems are also a principle source of economic weakness, especially the mismatch between employment opportunities to educational attainment and the reliance on the public sector to provide jobs for the nation's youth.

Most university graduates enter the public sector, with only 44 percent working in private industry. The high demand for public sector work, which is seen as the most stable work for young people, was subject to corruption under the previous regime, leaving many young Tunisians, especially those from the interior, frus-

trated at what they perceived as a rigged system. Budgetary constraints have limited the number of young graduates who are accepted into the public sector. Tunisia's youth frequently see private sector employment as precarious and undesirable. The banking system suffered from corruption under the former regime, and while agencies meant to encourage entrepreneurship have undergone reforms since the revolution, they continue to be seen as too bureaucratic. Youth organizations aimed at professional insertion are supposed to address these issues by connecting young professionals with business opportunities, but these efforts are often targeted to the country's elite.

For those Tunisians who do not have degrees in higher education, the opportunities to find work are more plentiful, but this work is often of a menial nature, with few opportunities for advancement and often of a precarious nature. Labor market rules designed to encourage long-term hiring have ironically had the reverse effect. Employers, faced with the rigidities of labor laws that are strict for long-term employees, will often propose contracts of only one month for young people. Employers can take advantage of these short-term employees for up to four years before deciding whether to convert the employee to a long term contract or not.

Entrepreneurship, particularly for the less educated, is a serious issue – from non-formal education to bank lending – since entrepreneurial activity has always been the reserve of those with tertiary degrees.

The educational system itself is seen as part of the problem. Long a hallmark of Tunisian development indicators, Tunisian students' performance in the international math and science exams



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has declined in the past two decades, a reflection of the overall decline in the country's educational system. This decline has occurred despite continued high investment in the education sector, estimated at over 7 percent of gross domestic product.

A significant skills mismatch exists between labor market demands and the university level graduate skills obtained. The educational system is based largely on theoretical models: many graduates are not prepared to enter the workforce upon completion of their studies. Efforts are underway to increase vocational opportunities and to encourage practical training opportunities for students. However, these have yet to bear fruit.

3.3 Women's participation

Women are particularly affected by the lack of job opportunities. 92 percent of girls complete a primary education in Tunisia, while only 90 percent of boys do the same. Of those who complete primary school, 87 percent of girls go on to secondary school, while only 80 percent of boys do.

Yet despite the fact that women's educational levels are increasing in absolute and relative terms (compared to men), their participation in the labor force remains limited. The World Bank estimates that only 25 percent of women are active workers, virtually unchanged from 10 years ago.

In an irony of Tunisian labor dynamics, the more educated one is, the worse one's prospects are; unemployment rates are higher in Tunisia for those with college degrees than for those with lower levels of educational attainment.

As Lahcen Achy noted in his study of Tunisia's economy for the Carnegie Endowment, "Education turned out to be a double-edged sword by raising the expectations of educated youths and fueling their frustrations...On average, each university graduate remains unemployed for two years and four months, which is nine months longer than for nongraduates."

The problem is more acute for women, who often have difficulty getting jobs in the private sector, while also finding public sector employment opportunities have become more limited. As a recent African Development Bank report states: "out of an equal number of male and female active engineers, the industry and private services sector hires 79 women for every 100 men. On the contrary, the public services sector hires 108 female engineers for every 100 men."

4 Educational and pedagogical background of youth work in Tunisia

The Tunisian government offers a wide range of services to young people to facilitate civic life through a variety of institutions. These services include employment, training opportunities (including: vocational training skills training, and self-employment), civic participation, and recreational activities. These form the basis of Tunisia's comprehensive youth program. However, there are difficulties coordinating these services across the agencies, leading to fragmented coverage and some ambiguity and overlap in roles.

4.1 The role of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Physical Education

The Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Physical Education remains the center of youth work policy within the Tunisian government. It works with the Ministry of Women, Children and Family for the protection of children and young people up to the age of 18, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment for those having reached adulthood, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Justice for prevention and assistance with matters of child abuse and the Ministry of Culture. Since 2002, there has been a National Youth Observatory (French, Observatoire nationale de jeunesse - ONJ) that organizes regular consultations designed to chart development plans. The ONJ also carries out studies pertaining to Tunisian youth. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Physical Education also manages the Institute for youth training at Bir el Bey, which trains youth workers for roles in the ministry and at youth centers throughout the country. To ensure the activities of youth centers meet the needs and expectations of youth, the Ministry of Youth and Sports announced in 2002 the implementation of a national plan for youth development aiming to supplying 310 youth centers with computer and Internet workstations, an area for language learning and a space for free time. The plan also included the creation of 24 information and development units within the urban youth centers in each region.

Youth workers in Tunisia have three profiles:

- Permanent youth worker: a graduate of the Higher Institute of Youth and Culture who becomes a State official below the rank of professor of youth;
- Contract facilitator: a worker in a professional activity responsible for non-formal training and solicited by the directors of youth centers to run a club.
- Volunteer youth worker: a young person with the initiative to lead and work in youth centers voluntarily.

4.2 A legacy of state control

Tunisia's government under Ben Ali was marked by a concentration of power in the capital and in coastal areas to the detriment of the interior regions. Youth programs in Tunisia were also highly centralized. Youth work policy and strategy was formulated in Tunis, without systematic collaboration with regions. Nevertheless, regional youth centers have continued to grow, although there are disparities in facilities. Facilities in rural areas, in particular, may be inaccessible and/or lack necessary equipment. While the government has invested in mobile youth programs, these do not cover all populations and many areas receive visits from youth workers only a few times per month.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Physical Education is in the process of formulating a new youth policy that will be "a product of the revolution." The Ministry is currently undertaking a diagnostic study of Tunisian youth that will form the basis for cross-sectoral policies across various ministries.

The challenge that the formulation of the new policy is to decipher the extent



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to which programs created under the dictatorship should continue. Within the ministry, there is widespread support for the continued financing of the country's youth houses: however, there are likely to be substantial changes with respect to how these are financed. Rural (interior) areas are likely to see increased funding compared to their counterparts in the coastal areas. The ministry is also putting greater emphasis on social and health activities, citizenship awareness, and the environment. The Ministry has expressed its interest in working more closely with civil society organizations as implementers of these activities.

Decentralization is another area where the new government is likely to change official policy. Decentralization of government services, and even the election of local officials, is of great interest to the current Tunisian government. The result of this policy change could dramatically change the landscape for youth workers, who, the government argues, would have greater flexibility to design youth programs that correspond to the specific needs of their communities. There are, however, critics of decentralization, who see potential downsides for certain groups, such as women, in more conservative areas of the country.

Official youth work programs have only limited partnerships with outside organizations that could help improve access to services. However, the Ministry of Youth has operated youth employment programs in conjunction with other ministries.

For example, the voluntary civil service program enables graduates of higher education, first-time jobseekers (and who have not previously benefited from introductory courses in professional life), to work in voluntary and part-time

internships in community service in order to acquire practical skills and professional attitudes to facilitate their integration into working life as an employee or freelancer.

This program is supervised by the associations or professional organizations, via an agreement concluded with the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment. The management of this program is entrusted to the national agency for employment. The maximum duration of the course is twelve months. A monthly allowance of one hundred and fifty dinars is given to the trainee throughout the training period.

The National Employment Fund can support a maximum amount of 60% of public transport costs for the trainees, under an agreement between the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment and the Ministry of Transport.

Despite these efforts, significant obstacles to integration to civil and professional life remain. These constraints highlight the challenges and need for a more systematic, strategic, and integrated approach to youth development. Also needed is a clearer focus on targeting disadvantaged youth.

4.3 Formal and non-formal education

Formal education remains the standard for the Tunisian government's approach to youth work and youth participation. The legacy of state control has limited the number of independent bodies that can provide opportunities for non-formal learning – something that has been identified as a key need for youth, especially

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in developing the soft skills necessary for joining the workforce.

Foreign organizations also play a role in the informal sector, particularly through programs such as Euro-Med and Youth in Action, which together sponsor activities such as the European voluntary service program. These exchanges have allowed many Tunisians to learn not only from youth workers in Europe, but from around the Arab-Mediterranean world.



Rural area of Sidi Salem, 28.06.2012 - Visit of the village to learn about Youth Work in Rural areas animated by the Moving Youth Club



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5 Challenges for youth workers after the revolution

The youth worker system, put in place under the regime of the country's first president, Habib Bourguiba, has been left largely intact. Managed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the youth worker program consists of a variety of different programs aimed at reaching young people across the country. The Bir el Bey Institute (Institut superieure de l'animation de la jeunesse et de la culture) outside of Tunis is the center of youth leader training. Graduates are eligible to become state youth workers in any of the 284 youth clubs in the country, some of which are mobile – in order to reach rural areas, provide non-formal education opportunities for Tunisian youth and also serve as community centers for non-governmental associations engaged in youth work.

While the state youth worker system has remained intact, the reality of youth work has changed dramatically since the revolution. Free for the first time to acknowledge deficiencies in the government's approach to youth issues, state workers and associations are working to find solutions that had previously been ignored or hidden.

Recognition of regional disparities is one of these key areas. While governmental and non-governmental organizations have a significant presence in Tunisia's major coastal areas, the country's interior has long been neglected. One of the key priorities to the reform of the country's youth work is to decentralize both budgets and priorities to the regions themselves.

Youth workers are also facing the challenge of working with youth who often lack the skills and experience to enter

the workforce. While Tunisia's educational statistics remain near the top for the region, there is widespread recognition that the system does not provide the quality required for the country's employers. Associations can play an important role in bridging these skill gaps through training, networking, and non-formal education.

Youth workers and associations also work directly with the educational system itself in order to provide non-formal learning opportunities. These activities can play an important part in bringing young people who are otherwise disinclined, into associative institutions. The challenge of reaching new young people is particularly acute because of the perceptions many Tunisian youth have of youth clubs as being organs of the previous regime.

Youth workers also face the challenge of teaching and imparting new expressions of citizenship and rights. Much of Tunisia's new civil society, born after the revolution, are youth led initiatives aimed at creating awareness of social problems and providing outlets for young Tunisians to become involved. The October 2011 elections were an opportunity for many of these organizations to reach out to their communities in an effort to encourage voting. Other organizations have focused on health, the environment, and women's rights – all of which were previously the domain of the state.

These new organizations, however, face capacity challenges. While the time it takes to form and fund an organization has been dramatically reduced, few Tunisians have the experience in non-profit management necessary to create sustainable organizations.

A shifting policy environment, a constitution that aims to decentralize state

functions, and the emergence of thousands of new Tunisian associations are changing youth work across Tunisia. The challenges faced, and how they are overcome, will shape a new generation.

5.1 Changes in the legal structure

Two new decrees established the rights of citizens to information and to form associations. This includes the right to hold meetings, demonstrations, publish reports, and conduct polls. It bans public authorities from impeding the work of associations. The government must protect the work of associations from violence, revenge, discrimination. Every Tunisian has a right to start an association with the exception of those who hold high-level positions in political parties. The new law also facilitates setting up an NGO – which can be done in as few as 10 days.

As a result of these legal changes, there has been a significant increase in the number of associations. Today there are many new associations (2000 registered, 1000 waiting for registration) – working in many fields: e.g., economy, governance, development.

There is a major difference in associative life between the economic centers and the interior. In the capital there are very well-structured associations. In the regions, it is the opposite – especially among youth. There is a capacity problem for many of these organizations, including how they are structured, their accounting, rules, voting, and board governance. Some outside help has gone to organizations that do not need it, while

the organizations that need it most are left out. The problem is donors, who are risk averse and reluctant to fund unknown organizations.

There is a concentration in certain themes among the activities of Tunisian civil society. Tunis-based, elite associations tend to focus on human rights, culture, and education. Organizations in Tunisia's interior tend to focus on local economic development.



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Sousse, 29.06.2012

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6 Examples of youth projects

Youth projects in Tunisia are quite dynamic since the end of state control over associative life following the 2011 uprising. Youth projects range from long established NGOs that operated under the former regime to start-up NGOs run by Tunisian youth. The following are some examples of youth projects seen during the course of the June 2012 study visit.



Kairouan - Association for the preservation of the Medina

Mr. Mourad Rammeh, President and Leila Marzouki, member of the association

The preservation of the medina is a joint project with the Ministry of Heritage and different associations from Kairouan. There are awareness programs for youth


on traditional architecture. Funding for the project comes from the government of Tunisia, the EuroMed heritage programme and tourist fees.

The EuroMed heritage project "Montada" targets children in middle and high school. The goals are to promote heritage, include heritage as part of culture (the city as a museum), involve citizens in preservation work (in all trades). Some of the actions were: a communication campaign for teachers and students, to instill knowledge of history through practical activities,



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correct misconceptions through heritage clubs at schools. 12-16 students (8-12 years) were chosen to raise awareness in young people. Neighborhood groups were created from children in different schools. Facilitators/teachers worked on a voluntary basis. Activities took place in clubs or on-site, including field trips to sites and museums.

Tunis – Tunisian association of youth hostels (ATATJ)

Hosteling has long been an international activity rlinked to openness, moderation, and tolerance. The ATATJ promotes citizenship through volunteering, promoting tourism and human rights. Funding comes through hostels, international youth hostel cards, government, grants. They work in various areas: heritage, culture, tourism, sports. Regional actions promote Arab youth hostels, including promotion of human rights. However, leaders of the ATATJ note that there is a persistant impression that youth hostels are connected to the former ruling government.

Tunis - Youth and science association of Tunisia

Having started as a movement the YSAT is an NGO that allows youth to participate in extra-curricular scientific and technological activities, research, innovation, and contribute to digital and scientific culture. Actions include youth conferences. There is a need to improve quality of activities, establish relationships with private sector, secure funding. The activities, which are not offered in school, provide training in work related areas. YSAT wants to open an activity center for scientific activity across the Mediterranean.

Sfax - Sfax el mezyena – Beautiful Sfax

Mr. Selim Cherif.

Established in 2010, Sfax el Mezyena's objective is to improve the ecology and social life of Tunisia's second city. Their actions include workshops on green/sustainable activities, planting trees, painting, and recycling. They recently held a competition to make homes and schools more beautiful.

Tunis - Jeunes independents democrats (JID)

Established in 2011, JID has 60 members. Most members work in other associations. They made their mark supporting election work during Tunisia's first free and fair elections. Their goal is to transmit information to young people to help them make better decisions.

Sousse - Culture of entrepreneurship

Founded in 2003 the club is financed by the Ministry of Education. It meets every Wednesday in the Sousse Youth Center. Its objective is to raise student awareness, help set up businesses, exchange ideas, improve competencies, organize scientific seminars for awareness, visit companies/institutions, do training and participate in international events.

Sousse - Tunisian association for employment and investment (ATTI).

Established in 2011, ATTI encourages the launch of development projects and creating job opportunities. It aims to contribute to the national economy through the development of human capital. It provides support and training for potential entrepreneurs. Training seminars include how to prepare CVs/cover letters/interviews.

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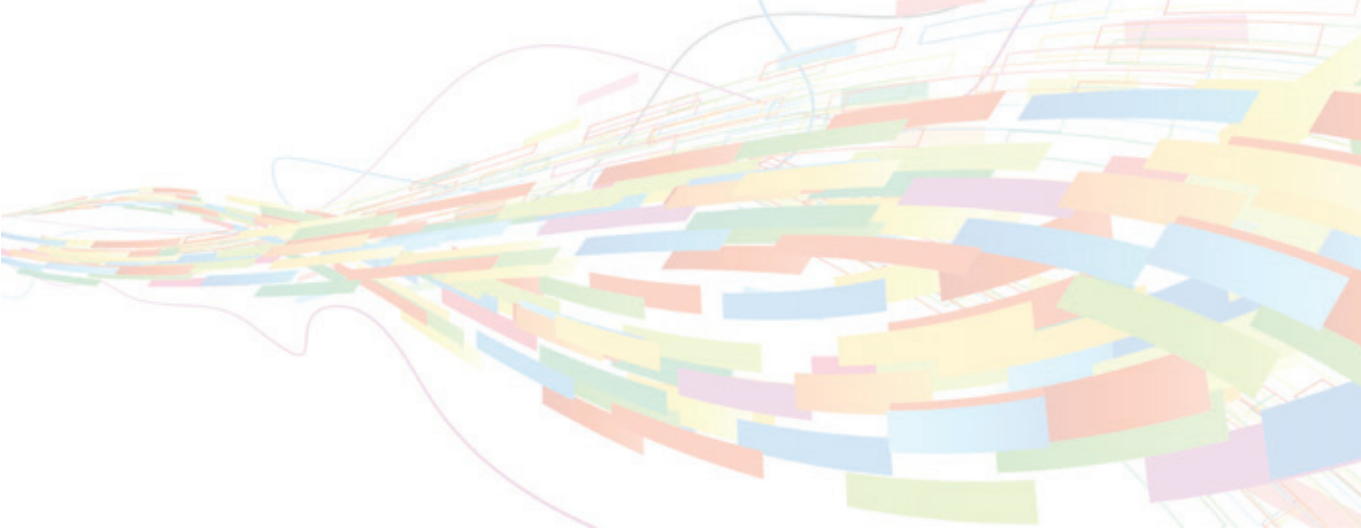
8. Conclusion

The reality of youth work in Tunisia is that the landscape has dramatically shifted since the January 2011 uprising. New associations, heightened expectations, and a new government with new priorities has forced youth workers to rethink their approach.

Youth work continues to be characterized in Tunisia by a high degree of state control. Centrally planned activities and development plans have had the virtue of training a highly skilled cadre of youth workers around the country. However, there are problems with this model that are known to all the partners.

The legacy of the former dictatorship has taken a heavy toll on youth worker activities and youth workers recognize the importance of being seen as independent actors – serving youth – not the state. Centralization has also caused many regions to feel underserved by the priorities of youth work programs. What works in Tunis does not necessarily work





in the country's interior. Finally, youth work in Tunisia has been, partially because of its legacy and its centralization, ineffective when reaching out to youth who are most at risk.

Addressing these critical issues is a fundamental concern for the Tunisian government as it looks to preserve what has worked and changing what has not.



What is clear is that now more than ever there is a culture of change in Tunisia. This, perhaps more than any policy, will provide the foundation for changes in youth work in the coming years.

Working groups during the Study Visit

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Annexes

Country Profile

Full name of the Country | **Tunisian Republic**

Government Type | Mixed Presidential System

Area | **163,610 km²**

Capital City | Tunis

Other main cities | **Sfax, Nabeul, Sousse, Kairouan, Bizerte**

Population | 10,732,900

Gender Ratio (F/M) | **F: 49.4 M: 50.6**

Ethnic composition | Arab 98%, Berber 1%

Age structure: | **0-14 years: 23.2%**
15-64 years: 69.3%
65 years and over: 7.5%

Median age: | total: 30.5 years
male: 30.1 years
female: 30.9 years (2012 est.)

Population growth rate: | **0.964% (2012 est.)**

Life expectancy at birth: | 75.24 years

Literacy (age 15 and over can read and write) | **total population: 74.3%**
male: 83.4%
female: 65.3% (2004 census)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education): | total: 15 years
male: 14 years
female: 15 years (2008)

Unemployment rate | **17.60%**



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Euro-Med, Youth in Action, and SALTO

The Euro-Med Youth Programme

The Euro-Med Youth Programme is a regional programme set up within the framework of the third chapter of the Barcelona Process entitled “Partnership in social, cultural and human affairs”. The programme is in its fourth phase.

The general objective of Phase IV of the programme is: to support and strengthen the participation and contribution of youth organisations and youth from the Euro-Mediterranean region towards the development of civil society and democracy.

The specific objectives are:

- To stimulate and encourage mutual understanding between young people within the Euro-Mediterranean region and to fight against stereotypes and prejudices.
- To promote active citizenship among young people and enhance their sense of solidarity
- To contribute to the development of youth policies in the different partner countries.

The geographical scope of the Euro-Med Youth programme Phase IV comprises 35 countries: the 27 European Union Member States and 8 of the Mediterranean partner countries and territories in the Barcelona Declaration (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia).



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Youth in Action

Youth in Action is the Programme the European Union has set up for young people. It aims to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future. It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU's borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background: Youth in Action is a Programme for all.

Every year, thousands of projects are submitted by promoters in order to get financial support from the Programme via selection process

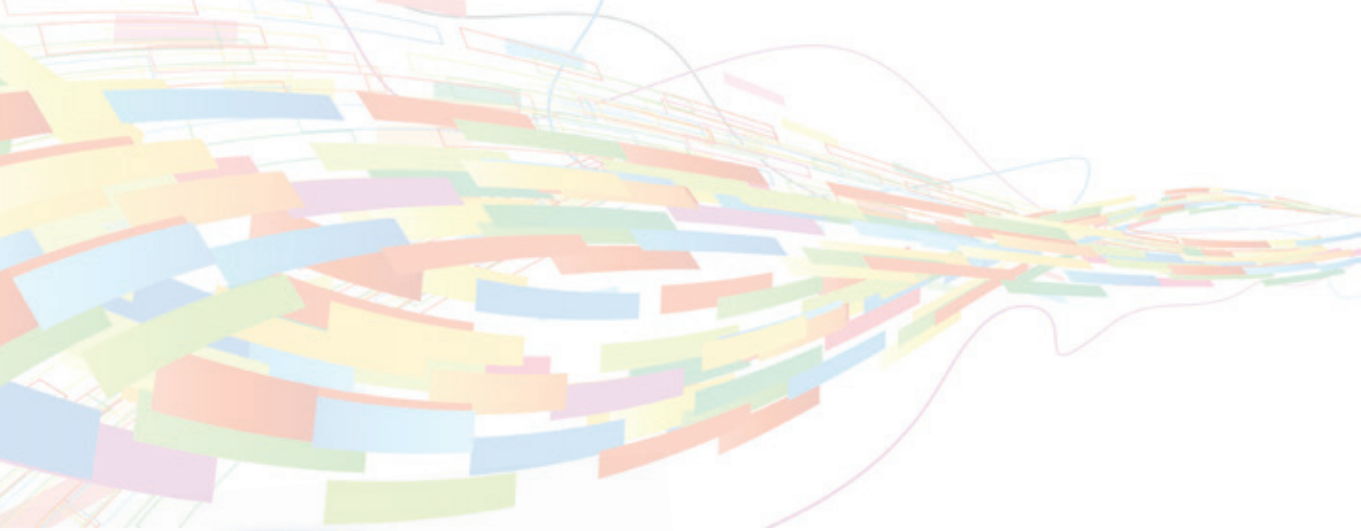
aimed at funding the best projects. The YOUTH IN ACTION programme is the EU's mobility and non-formal education programme targeting young people aged between 13 and 30 years. Its specific objectives are:

- Promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular;
- Develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union;
- Foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries;
- Contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field;
- Promote European cooperation in the youth field.

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SALTO-YOUTH EuroMed Resource Centre

SALTO-YOUTH stands for Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities within the European YOUTH programme. SALTO-YOUTH.net is a network of 8 Resource Centres working on European priority areas within the youth field. It provides youth work and training resources and organises training and contact-making activities to support organisations and National Agencies within the frame of the European Commission's Youth in Action programme and beyond. SALTO-YOUTH's history started in 2000 and is part of the European Commission's Training



Sousse - Culture of entrepreneurship club

Strategy within the Youth in Action programme, working in synergy and complementarity with other partners in the field.



Youth work in Tunisia after the revolution





Day 1

Youth representatives from across Europe met counterparts in Tunisia. Participants listened to officials from the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports, the National Observatory for Youth and Training, and made a site visit to a Tunis-area school that trains youth workers and tourism professionalism. The unique context of Tunisia, as the first country of the Arab Spring, made the visit especially enriching, as participants debated the role of government ministry's, local youth councils, and NGOs in formulating new strategies for Tunisian youth. With an extensive history of youth initiatives dating back to the independence of the country, one of Tunisia's key challenges is to strike a balance of continuing initiatives that have worked, while branching out and exploring new ways of reaching out to the country's youth. European participants pointed out that their goal was not only to share their experiences, but to learn from Tunisians and to bring back ideas to their own countries.




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Day 2

Participants had the opportunity to learn from a range of leaders in associative work from across Tunisia. The topic of regional disparities was a hot topic, as participants discussed with experts in civil society on differences in youth policy and strategy in different regions in Tunisia. The director of associations in the Tunisian prime minister's office gave an overview of the radical new associative framework in Tunisia. Participants were impressed at not only how the Tunisian government has cut red tape, but how regulations have been adapted to reaffirm associations' essential role in Tunisian society. Finally, participants had the opportunity to hear from different youth associations in Tunisia, discussing with them the opportunities and challenges of youth work in post-revolutionary Tunisia.



Day 3

The historic city of Kairouan was the destination for the third day of the Euromed/Youth in Action study tour on youth work in Tunisia. Kairouan, a city in central Tunisia, is a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the holiest cities in Islam. The participants had the opportunity to hear how preservation societies are involving youth in their work of restoring the historic parts of the city. The participants then visited a rural youth club served by mobile youth units from the youth club of Kairouan. One of the key takeaways was the challenge of matching the needs of rural youth with the changes brought by the revolution and the new needs of Tunisia's youth.

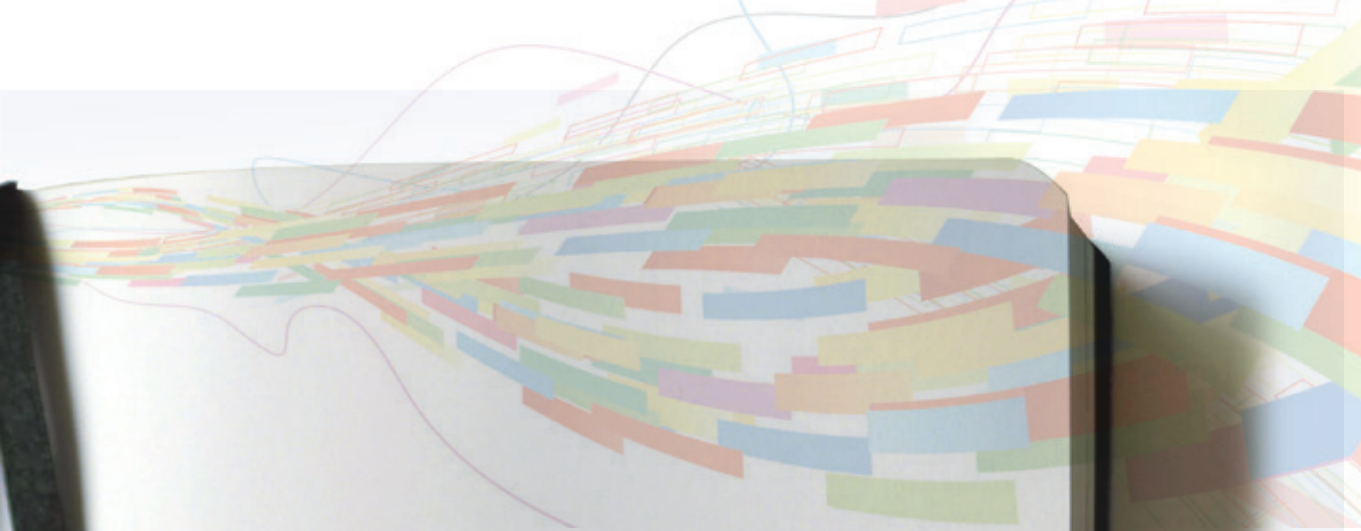
Day 4

The Euromed Youth/Youth in Action study tour on youth work in Tunisia wrapped up this evening after an inspiring day visiting and learning about how Tunisian associations are helping rural women enter the workforce. The Women's Group for Agricultural Development in Wadi Sbaïhia helps over 160 women



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to work in meaningful agricultural work, while learning new skills and transferring knowledge. Research from Centre for Research, Studies, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF), the first such institution in Africa, provided background for participants on the opportunities and challenges for Tunisian women in the workforce. While the visit to Tunisia has concluded, participants will bring back to their home countries knowledge of the reality of youth work in Tunisia, and ideas on how European countries can partner with Tunisia at this critical time in its history.

During the Study visit, the present 13 National Agencies had also the possibility to share in group about the possibilities of cooperation for the next year in supporting activities within the frame of EuroMediterranean area. During the TCP meeting, NAs will have the possibility of meeting EMYUS of Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Authority, Morocco and Algeria. The aim of having EMYUS in Vienna for the TCP (Training and cooperation plan) in September will be support the cooperation and development of new cooperations including new organizations and new projects.



Tunisia at a glance

POVERTY and SOCIAL

	Tunisia	M. East & North Africa	Upper-middle-income
2011			
Population, mid-year (millions)	10.7	337	2,490
GNI per capita (Atlas method, US\$)	4,020	3,866	6,563
GNI (Atlas method, US\$ billions)	42.9	1,279	16,341

Average annual growth, 2005-11

	Tunisia	M. East & North Africa	Upper-middle-income
Population (%)	1.0	1.7	0.7
Labor force (%)	2.1	2.0	1.1

Most recent estimate (latest year available, 2005-11)

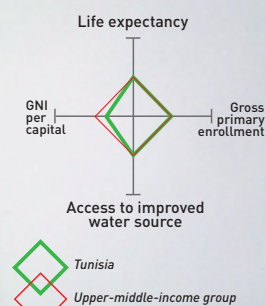
	Tunisia	M. East & North Africa	Upper-middle-income
Poverty (% of population below national poverty line)	16	..	..
Urban population (% of total population)	66	59	61
Life expectancy at birth (years)	75	72	73
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	14	26	16
Child malnutrition (% of children under 5)	3	6	3
Access to an improved water source (% of population)	94	89	93
Literacy (% of population age 15+)	78	76	94
Gross primary enrollment (% of school-age population)	110	105	111
Male	112	108	111
Female	108	101	111

KEY ECONOMIC RATIOS and LONG-TERM TRENDS

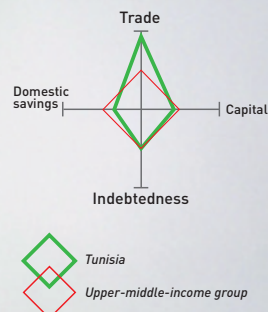
	1991	2001	2010	2011
GDP (US\$ billions)	13.1	22.1	44.4	46.4
Gross capital formation/GDP	26.0	26.2	26.5	24.1
Exports of goods and services/GDP	40.4	42.8	50.1	48.9
Gross domestic savings/GDP	21.0	22.3	21.2	16.8
Gross national savings/GDP	21.1	22.6	21.2	15.6
Current account balance/GDP	-4.4	-3.9	-4.8	-5.4
Interest payments/GDP	3.4	2.3	1.6	1.6
Total debt/GDP	63.1	58.5	49.7	48.1
Total debt service/exports	26.2	14.5	10.6	11.4
Present value of debt/GDP	..	..	..	41.4
Present value of debt/exports	..	..	..	82.4

	1991-01	2001-11	2010	2011	2011-15
(average annual growth)					
GDP	4.8	4.4	3.0	-2.0	3.6
GDP per capita	3.2	3.4	1.9	-3.1	2.6
Exports of goods and services	5.8	2.8	4.8	-3.9	9.0

Development diamond*



Economic ratios*



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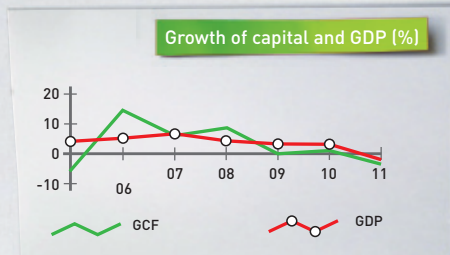
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STRUCTURE of the ECONOMY

(% of GDP)

	1991	2001	2010	2011
Agriculture	19.1	10.7	8.0	8.9
Industry	33.1	30.0	31.1	31.3
Manufacturing	19.4	18.8	18.4	18.1
Services	47.8	59.4	61.0	59.8
Household final consumption expenditure	62.4	61.2	62.5	65.5
General gov't final consumption expenditure	16.6	16.6	16.2	17.6
Imports of goods and services	45.3	46.7	54.9	55.8



(average annual growth)

	1991-01	2001-11	2010	2011
Agriculture	2.5	2.5	-7.9	4.0
Industry	4.4	30.0	4.4	2.0
Manufacturing	5.9	2.9	11.6	1.3
Services	5.8	6.6	..	..
Household final consumption expenditure	4.4	4.0	2.6	-7.1
General gov't final consumption expenditure	4.6	5.2	5.1	5.8
Gross capital formation	3.4	3.6	0.7	-3.5
Imports of goods and services	4.5	2.2	3.8	-9.2

Note: 2011 data are preliminary estimates.

This table was produced from the Development Economics LDB database.

* The diamonds show four key indicators in the country (in bold) compared with its income-group average. If data are missing, the diamond will be incomplete.

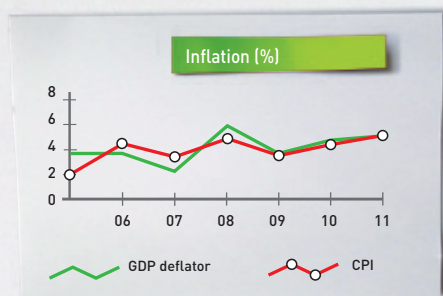
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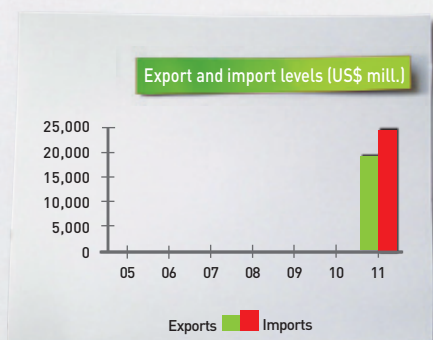
PRICES and GOVERNMENT FINANCE

	1991	2001	2010	2011
Domestic prices				
<i>(% change)</i>				
Consumer prices	8.2	1.9	4.4	5.2
Implicit GDP deflator	7.0	2.8	4.7	5.0
Government finance				
<i>(% of GDP, includes current grants)</i>				
Current revenue	26.4	22.0	22.9	21.2
Current budget balance	3.0	4.2	5.1	1.0
Overall surplus/deficit	-5.2	-3.2	-1.2	-5.3



TRADE

	1991	2001	2010	2011
<i>(US\$ millions)</i>				
Total exports (fob)	17,617
Fuel	2,711
Agriculture	1,461
Manufactures	11,797
Total imports (cif)	22,054
Food	1,617
Fuel and energy	2,984
Capital goods	4,719
Export price index (2000=100)
Import price index (2000=100)
Terms of trade (2000=100)



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BALANCE of PAYMENTS

	1991	2001	2010	2011
<i>(US\$ millions)</i>				
Exports of goods and services	5,110	9,518	22,236	23,219
Imports of goods and services	5,656	10,423	24,351	24,163
Resource balance	-545	-905	-2,115	-943
Net income	-595	-941	-2,270	-3,312
Net current transfers	563	983	2,267	1,742
Current account balance	-577	-863	-2,118	-2,513
Financing items (net)	475	1,118	1,926	1,254
Changes in net reserves	103	-255	192	1,259
Memo:				
Reserves including gold <i>(US\$ millions)</i>	801	1,999	9,471	8,204
Conversion rate <i>(DEC, local/US\$)</i>	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.4

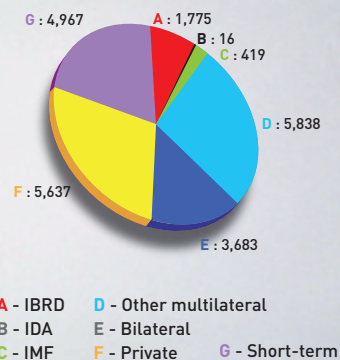
EXTERNAL DEBT and RESOURCE FLOWS

	1991	2001	2010	2011
<i>(US\$ millions)</i>				
Total debt outstanding and disbursed	8,251	12,916	22,048	22,335
IBRD	1,552	1,297	1,381	1,775
IDA	58	37	18	16
Total debt service	1,364	1,394	2,359	2,661
IBRD	236	226	199	195
IDA	2	2	2	2
Composition of net resource flows				
Official grants	100	94	142	..
Official creditors	509	423	636	1,313
Private creditors	-167	642	-550	-904
Foreign direct investment (net inflows)	125	452	1,334	1,143
Portfolio equity (net inflows)	34	-15	-26	0
World Bank program				
Commitments	306	328	138	592
Disbursements	297	293	234	597
Principal repayments	127	148	159	153
Net flows	171	145	74	444
Interest payments	111	80	42	44
Net transfers	60	65	32	400

Current account balance to GDP (%)



Composition of 2011 debt (US\$ mill.)



Note: This table was produced from the Development Economics LDB database.

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The overall objective of RCBS is to support the Euro Mediterranean youth units (EMYUs) in their efforts to ensure an efficient implementation of the Euromed Youth programme and an optimum achievement of results.

Specific objectives are:

- guidance and training activities for EMYUs and project leaders and organisations,
- coordination and synergies between actors and stakeholders (youth in action programme, Euromed platform, etc.),
- visibility and communication.

Author:

Erik Churchill,
Tunisia-based development consultant,
analyst, blogger

Editorial committee:

B. Abrignani,
Project Director of **RCBS**
F. Demicheli,
Project Officer of SALTO-YOUTH
Euromed Resource Centre
M.R. Valentini,
Short Term Expert in Communication
of RCBS

Publication Director:

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